

Grist Mill,
Riceville, Pennsylvania
CRAWFORD Co.

HABS No. Pa.-532

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20-Ricevi
4.

PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

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GRIST MILL
Riceville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

Owner.

Riceville Power Company Incorporated.

Date of Erection

1857.

Architect

Builders

Jesse Smith and J. W. Gray.

Present Condition

Good.

Number of Stories:

Approximately three and basement. Upper part a good story high in center of building.

Materials of Construction:

Wood and native stone.

Records

Deeds, personal and other records, probably all held at Riceville, except Crawford County Court House Records.

Additional Data-Bibliography:

An illustrated History of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
Egle, William H., M. D., Harrisburg, DeWitt C. Goodrich & Co.
Crawford County, 1876.

History of Crawford County, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois.
Brown, Runk and Co., Publishers 1890.

PA.
20-Ricevi
4-GRIST MILL
Riceville, Crawford County, Pennsylvania

A grist and a saw mill were the very first needs of the pioneers of the northwestern part of Pennsylvania. Most of the settlers hunted up one or both of these mills if they could not afford to construct one themselves before they did anything else. So naturally, every stream that would furnish enough water to turn a wheel had a mill in the early days, and sometimes several, for the forests were dense and the grain that could be raised was precious. But with the coming of steam for motive power and modern methods the old grist and saw mills fell into disuse, until very few of them remain today.

The grist mill at Riceville, is still being used to some extent, but mostly for storage. It was built in 1857 and has undergone some remodeling inside and some repairs to the stone abutments outside. In 1912 an old water wheel was removed and a new water power wheel installed, also a grinder for buckwheat and a chop grinder. This last grinds oats, corn and buckwheat for milk cattle. It is a solidly built mill with strong frames. The upper story is constructed with a slanting roof that runs to the height of the tops of the windows of this story, when there is a break to allow several feet of straight wall, containing openings under the eaves of another roof. The cornice is plain, but extremely effective. All exterior moldings are plain. A covered platform is at the front of the building. The windows are two sash twelve light glass windows. A door opens onto the platform with another receiving door just above opening onto the roof of the covering. The windows of the basement have nine lights.

Jesse Smith and J. W. Gray were the original proprietors and builders. They built this mill on Oil Creek, whose source is in Oil Creek Lake or as it is now called Canadota Lake. It is on the west branch, the east branch has its source in Spartansburg pond at Centerville. Jesse Smith and J. W. Gray sold the mill to Davenport and Son about 1906, and it has changed hands several times since, finally sold to Riceville Power Company, Incorporated 1912, but not being a success was finally sold for debt in 1932.

Up under the roof on the left hand side in front is the word "Built" and underneath "1857" in large letters and figures. On one side the old sign is still visible "Riceville Power Company, Inc. 1912". "Mill and Manufacturing. Dealers in salt, coal, lime, flour and feed." No particular historical value.

Annie Scott Baxter

Approved

Karl Guernsey Dixhoff
Sept 29, 1936.

Rec. Oct 8-36-TW